

### Remarks

The Office Action mailed April 19, 2007, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-11 stand rejected. Claims 12-20 are newly added. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by King (U.S. Patent 5,127,410) is respectfully traversed.

King describes an ultrasonic transducer probe for medical scanning and a lens assembly for use therein. The probe includes a housing in which an ultrasonic transducer array is mounted. The housing also includes an opening that is adjacent the transducer array. A first lens subassembly is mounted to the transducer and moves with the transducer if the transducer is rotated. A second lens subassembly is mounted to the housing to fill the opening. The second lens assembly includes a thin plastic film that covers the opening and is bonded to the housing to seal the opening. The second lens assembly includes a film backing lens or layer. Notably, the transducer described in King does not extend through the opening formed in the housing. Rather, the transducer is merely positioned within the housing. Further, the opening in the housing is filled with a layer of grease that covers the transducer. Accordingly, the second lens assembly is not in contact with a transmission/reception surface of the transducer, but rather the transducer is separated from the second lens assembly by the layer of grease.

Claim 1 recites an ultrasonic probe comprising "an ultrasonic transceiver unit...an enclosure that encloses the unit, the enclosure comprising...a first partial enclosure formed of hard plastics having an opening at the tip, the ultrasonic transceiver unit extending through the opening...a second partial enclosure integrally formed with the first partial enclosure so as to cover the opening to extend from the tip, the second partial enclosure being formed of soft plastics and having a transmission/reception surface of the ultrasonic transceiver unit in contact therewith from inside the enclosure."

King does not describe or suggest an ultrasonic probe as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, King does not describe or suggest an ultrasonic probe that includes a first partial enclosure having an opening, wherein an ultrasonic transceiver unit extends through the opening. Rather, King describes a transducer that is merely positioned within a housing. Further, the opening described in King is filled with a layer of grease that covers the transducer. Accordingly, King does not describe or suggest an ultrasonic probe that includes a second partial enclosure in contact with a transmission/reception surface of an ultrasonic transceiver. Rather, King describes a transducer that is separated from a second lens assembly by the layer of grease.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over King.

Claim 2, 3, and 8-10 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, and 8-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3, and 8-10 likewise are patentable over King.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-3 and 8-10 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4-7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Silber (U.S. Patent 5,928,154) is respectfully traversed.

King is described above.

Silber describes a grip layer formed circumferentially around a substantial portion of an ultrasound probe housing. Specifically, Silber is cited for describing that the housing of the probe may be color-coded to facilitate identification of the type or model of the probe. The color-coding may also be used to designate a frequency of the probe.

Claims 4-7 and 11 depend from Claim 1, which recites an ultrasonic probe comprising "an ultrasonic transceiver unit...an enclosure that encloses the unit, the enclosure comprising...a first partial enclosure formed of hard plastics having an opening at the tip, the

ultrasonic transceiver unit extending through the opening...a second partial enclosure integrally formed with the first partial enclosure so as to cover the opening to extend from the tip, the second partial enclosure being formed of soft plastics and having a transmission/reception surface of the ultrasonic transceiver unit in contact therewith from inside the enclosure.”

Neither King nor Silber describe or suggest an ultrasonic probe as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, neither King nor Silber describe or suggest an ultrasonic probe that includes a first partial enclosure having an opening, wherein an ultrasonic transceiver unit extends through the opening. Rather, King describes a transducer that is merely positioned within a housing. Further, the opening described in King is filled with a layer of grease that covers the transducer. Accordingly, King does not describe or suggest an ultrasonic probe that includes a second partial enclosure in contact with a transmission/reception surface of an ultrasonic transceiver. Rather, King describes a transducer that is separated from a second lens assembly by the layer of grease. Moreover, Silber is merely cited for describing that the housing of the probe may be color-coded to facilitate identification of the type or model of the probe. Applicants submit that Silber does not overcome the deficiencies of King.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over King.

Claim 4-7 and 11 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 4-7 and 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 4-7 and 11 likewise are patentable over King.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4-7 and 11 be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that newly added Claim 12 is patentable over the cited art. Specifically, Claim 12 recites an enclosure for an ultrasonic transceiver unit, wherein the enclosure comprises “a first portion comprising a tip, the tip having an opening through which the ultrasonic transceiver unit extends...a second portion integrally formed with the

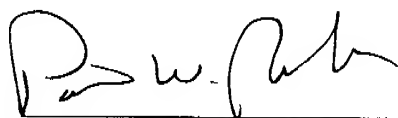
first portion to cover the opening, the second portion having an inner surface in contact with a transmission/reception surface of the ultrasonic transceiver unit.”

Applicants submit that the cited art does not describe or suggest an enclosure for an ultrasonic transceiver unit as is recited in Claim 12. Specifically, as set forth above, the cited art does not describe or suggest a tip having an opening through which the ultrasonic transceiver unit extends. Accordingly, Claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claims 13-20 depend from Claim 12. When the recitations of Claims 13-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that Claims 13-20 likewise are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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